

Simple MD Cartridge Preamplifier

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Phonographs are gradually becoming a rarity. Most of them have had to yield to more advanced systems, such as CD players and recorders or (portable) MiniDisc player/recorders. This trend is recognised by manufacturers of audio installations, which means that the traditional phono input is missing on increasingly more systems. Hi-fi enthusiasts who want make digital versions of their existing collections of phonograph records on a CD or MD, discover that it is no longer possible to connect a phonograph to the system. However, with a limited amount of circuitry, it is possible to adapt the line input of a modern amplifier or recorder so that it can handle the low-level signals generated by the magnetodynamic cartridge of a phonograph. Of course, the circuit has to provide the well-known RIAA correction that must be used with these cartridges. The preamplifier shown here performs the job using only one opamp, four resistors and four capacitors. For a stereo version, you will naturally need two of everything. Any stabilised power supply that can deliver $\pm 15\text{ V}$ can be used as a power source.

